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ICR News 2016

ICR Celebrates 90th Anniversary



■ Chairperson of ICR 90th Anniversary Committee
Prof KAWABATA, Takeo



Lecture given by Director Tokitoh, ICR



Exhibition of the latest researches at ICR



Commemorative Ceremony for 90th Anniversary



Speech by President Yamagiwa,
Kyoto University



Speech by Director-General Komatsu,
Research Promotion Bureau,
the Ministry of Education, Culture,
Sports, Science and Technology



KAGAMIBIRAKI ceremony at the
banquet

Ever since it was formally founded on 4 October 1926 to conduct “fundamental and applied researches on specific subjects in chemistry”, ICR has carried out extensive studies in an extremely wide range of basic and applied chemistry, reaching its 90th anniversary last fall. We celebrated the anniversary on November 11, 2016 by holding Commemorative Lecture Meeting, Ceremony, and Banquet at the Clock Tower Centennial Hall (Centennial Hall and International Conference Hall), Kyoto University. We had another commemorative event, Poster Exhibition showing current activities of ICR. In the Lecture Meeting, lectures were delivered by Director N. Tokitoh on the past, present, and future perspective of ICR and by four ICR members, Professors H. Ogata, Y. Shimakawa, S. Sakabe, and S. Yamago on the frontier science. The Commemorative Ceremony included an address by Director N. Tokitoh and greetings by President J. Yamagiwa, Kyoto University, Director-General Y. Komatsu, Research Promotion Bureau, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Dr. M. Sasaki (on behalf of Dr. Z. Matsuura), Council for Research Institutes and Centers of Japanese National Universities, and President. H. Yamamoto, the Chemical Society of Japan. The Lecture Meeting and Ceremony had an approximate total of 500 participants including some 200 guests from academia and industry. The Banquet was also a success with over 300 participants, getting started with greetings by President Y. Hiraki, Joint Usage/Research Center, Director N. Oshiman, Kyoto University Research Coordination Alliance, Dr. K. Tamao, RIKEN, and Dr. K. Soda, Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University, and proceeding in a friendly and enjoyable atmosphere.

International Research Network Weeks

■ Prof FUTAKI, Shiroh

ICR has built a community across the world including researchers, students and faculty. A remarkable event “International Research Network Weeks” was held on March 7–11, 2016. ICR invited global researchers and students who have been collaborated with ICR members for a week. The aim of this event is to strengthen partnerships and enhance international collaboration with institutions having MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with ICR. At the beginning of the event, ICR built new ones with Department of Chemistry and Bioengineering, Notre Dame University (U.S.) and Department of Chemistry and Bioengineering, Ohio State University (U.S.). It is the 68th ICR’s faculty level MOU.

On March 7–8, the opening event -Institute for Chemical Research International Symposium 2016 (ICRIS’16) “Research Network Based on ICR MOU”- was held at

Kihada Hall of Uji-Obaku Plaza. 13 investigators from Asia, Europe, and the United State and their Japanese counterparts, 7 investigators having domestic collaboration with ICR members and 6 faculty members of ICR, and 78 posters presented at the symposium. We hope that all presentations stimulated discussion among members of ICR’s scientific community.



Materials Related with “Origin of Polyethylene Industry by the High-pressure Process in Japan” in the Institute for Chemical Research Were Approved as Chemical Heritage

■ Prof MURATA, Yasujiro

The engineering drawing, notebook, and reports for the industrial process in Kyoto University and the medal made by the polyethylene celebrating the first actual production in Japan were certified. Polyethylene (PE) is the most common synthetic polymers in petrochemical industry. There are three kinds of PEs depending on the production methods and the density. One of them is the low-density PE produced by high-pressure conditions, and it was industrialized in 1939 in UK. The PE has superior properties for insulation of radiofrequency, and therefore it was an essential material for radar devices during the World War II. In Japan, three groups started research works of PEs.

Although one of the group started small industrial process at Minamata in 1945, all facility were destroyed by an air raid. After the World War II, continuous production was conducted in Kyoto University during 1951 to 1953, with which the materials are related.

Chemical Heritage is one of the most important historical materials related to chemistry and chemical technology in Japan approved by the Chemical Society of Japan. The presentation ceremony of the award was held in the 96th Spring Annual Meeting of the Chemical Society of Japan at Doshisha University, Kyotanabe Campus on 26th March 2016.

